

Dear Prospective Site:

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) provides year-round influenza surveillance throughout the state with the help of volunteer healthcare providers through the ILINet Program. The ILINet Program is a national outpatient influenza illness surveillance program coordinated by the Influenza Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Participating healthcare providers report data on patient visits through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Participating sites include those involved in emergency medicine, family practice, student health, internal medicine, and urgent care. Every week, sites are required to report the total number of patients seen and the number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group. ILI is described as the presence of fever greater than 100°F with cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. ISDH prepares and distributes a weekly summary report during October through May.

ILINet providers also submit patient specimens to the ISDH Laboratories for virus testing and subtyping. All shipping supplies and testing fees are covered by the program for ILI providers and submitters receive a copy of the results. This vital part of the surveillance system allows ISDH to determine the types of influenza, as well as other respiratory pathogens, circulating in the Indiana. The important public health information obtained from this influenza surveillance is used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, antiviral resistance testing, and patient care.

If you are interested in joining the influenza ILINET surveillance program, please complete the enrollment form and FAX to: 317-234-2812.

Thank you for your interest,

Surveillance and Investigation Division
Epidemiology Resource Center
317-233-7125